

## Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-10

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TO AMEMBASSY LAGOS NIACT IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 083060

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC, EINV, NI(LEFEVRE, LOUIS)

SUBJECT:AIG: DETENTION OF LEFEVRE: NEWSPAPER ARTICLE  
AND PRESS GUIDANCE

1. FOLLOWING APPEARED IN MARCH 31 EDITION OF NEW YORK  
TIMES, QUOTE: AMERICAN IS RELEASED ON BAIL BY NIGERIANS,  
WASHINGTON, MARCH 30 (REUTERS). BEGIN: NIGERIAN AUTHORI-  
TIES RELEASED A DETAINED AMERICAN BUSINESSMAN TODAY,  
A DAY BEFORE PRESIDENT CARTER IS DUE TO ARRIVE IN LAGOS,  
THE NIGERIAN CAPITAL, THE STATE DEPARMTENT SAID.

A DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN, JOHN H. TRATTNER, SAID  
THE BUSINESSMAN, 45-YEAR-OLD LOUIS LEFEVRE, HAD BEEN  
VISITED BY A UNITED STATES CONSULAR OFFICER BEFORE HIS  
RELEASE ON \$7,500 BAIL.

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MR. LEFEVRE, MANAGING DIRECTOR OF THE AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL  
INSURANCE COMPANY OF NIGERIA, IS SAID BY THE NIGERIAN  
AUTHORIITES TO HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN A LOAN-FINANCING  
DISPUTE. HIS CASE HAD BEEN POSTPONED UNTIL APRIL 25,  
MR. TRATTNER SAID, ADDING THAT THE CHARGES HAD NOT BEEN  
MADE CLEAR.

HIS RELEASE FOLLOWED A MEETING AT THE STATE DEPARTMENT YESTERDAY BETWEEN RICHARD MOOSE, ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE FOR AFRICAN AFFAIRS, AND A.E.H. EMENYI, NIGERIA'S CHARGE D'AFFAIRES IN WASHINGTON. UNQUOTE.

2. FOLLOWING IS PRESS GUIDANCE BEING PROVIDED TO DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN FOR MARCH 31 NOON BRIEFING: QUOTE: QUESTION: DO YOU HAVE ANY MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE RENEWED DETENTION IN LAGOS OF MR. LOUIS LEFEVRE?

ANSWER: MR. LEFEVRE WAS RELEASED ON BAIL ON MARCH 30 AND THE CASE WAS ADJOURNED TO APRIL 25. WE UNDERSTAND THAT DURING THE MORNING OF MARCH 31, HE WAS CALLED IN TO THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE NIGERIAN CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION DEPARTMENT IN CONNECTION WITH THE CASE AND SUBSEQUENTLY TAKEN TO A PRISON NEAR LAGOS. WE HAVE NO FURTHER INFORMATION AT THIS TIME. UNQUOTE. COOPER

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## Message Attributes

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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** DETENTION, PRESS COMMENTS, PRISONERS RELEASE  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 31 mar 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 jan 1960  
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